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REPORT

OF THE SELECTMEN OF THE

TOWN OF CROYDON,

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING MARCH, 1854.

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid for the support of Schools: —

District No. 1.	Paid John Cooper,	54 54		
2.	Ira Bragg,	141 50		
3.	Peter Putnam,	99 69		
4.	Elkanah C. Hall,	26 47		
5.	Martin C. Bartlett,	34 35		
6.	Peter Barton,	31 45		
7.	Moses Metcalf,	12 31		
8.	Luke Paul,	8 29		
9.	Darwin Whipple,	15 48		
10.	Coffren Patten,	7 08		
	S. B. Rowell,	1 61		
				432 77

Paid, as follows: —

State Tax,	168 70	
County Tax,	128 11	
		296 81
Wm. M. Ladd, support of Teachers' Institute,	9 76	
Wm. C. Allen, enrolling and returning soldiers,	2 50	
Nathan Hall, enrolling and returning soldiers,	2 50	
Harvey A. Perry, for damages sustained in consequence of getting into a bridge near Libeus Heath's,	4 00	
Ephraim Nelson, opening 3 graves,	3 00	
Hiram Kempton, opening 5 graves,	6 00	
David W. Rawson, opening 4 graves,	5 50	
		33 26

NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE LIBRARY

Peter Hook, support of Livera Chase and child,	45 00	
Hiram Clark, support of Nathan Clark and wife,	125 00	
David Harding, for support of Lydia Harding,	40 00	
Moses Metcalf, for furnishing John Hyde house, wood, garden, and pasturing cow,	25 00	
Hial Dow, for taking care of Ezekiel Powers' wife during her last sickness,	120 00	
Edward B. Kempton, support of Lucia Freeman,	10 00	
		365 00
Simon Ames, for support of David Frye and wife,	190 00	
Benjamin Barton, support of Eugene Kennisson,	45 13	
Peter Barton, for support of Pierce Emerson,	60 00	
Peter Barton, for support of Joel Chase,	4 00	
Joseph Crooker, support of Ellen Kennisson before April 1st, 1853,	20 00	
Jos. Crooker, support of Ellen Kennisson one year,	35 00	
Joseph Crooker, support of Mrs. Bartlett,	68 00	
Joseph Crooker, support of Hannah Chase and child from June 11th, 1853, to March 11th, 1854, sickness included,	71 50	
		493 63
Cyrus K. Fletcher, for supporting Ezra Coburn from April 25th, 1853, to December 5th, 1853,	48 00	
Cyrus K. Fletcher, wood for E. Coburn,	2 00	
Daniel and Obed Q. Elliot, on an obligation to support Olive Elliot,	40 00	
Frye & Allen, for shoes for Eugene Kennisson,	1 00	
Obed Metcalf, wood for John Hyde,	1 00	
Obed Metcalf, for moving John Hyde,	2 00	
Cumings C. Winter, support of Timothy Winter and wife,	60 00	
Support of Mr. Danforth,	5 03	
Ephraim Nelson, support of Sally Hardy,	87 00	
Hubbard Cooper, for coffin for Sally Hardy,	4 00	
George W. Dunbar, for robe for Sally Hardy,	1 77	
Lemuel P. Cooper, support of Wm. Allen and wife,	63 00	
Charity Humphrey, for keeping Hannah Chase,	2 00	
		316 80
Ruel Durkee, 43 lbs. beef for Amos Rawson,	2 44	
" 2½ lbs. candles, do.	40	
" 2½ lbs. butter, do.	50	
" ½ lb, tea, do.	34	
" 1 bush. potatoes, do.	42	
" 2 bush. corn, do.	2 00	
Stillman K. Hazelton, for 43½ lbs. flour for Amos Rawson,	1 88	

Elias Sawyer, for wood for Amos Rawson,	2 00	
Hiram C. Brown, cloth for shirts for Amos Rawson,	1 99	
Ingalls E. Heath, for wife's work at Amos Rawson's, 2 weeks,	2 00	
Ruel Durkee, 48 lbs. sugar for Ezekiel Powers,	2 88	
" 47½ lbs. pork do.	6 18	
" 3 bush. wheat, do.	3 38	
" 3 lbs. tea, do.	1 80	
" 4 lbs. salæratus, do.	28	
" 7 lbs. fish, do.	28	
" 17½ lbs. tallow, do.	2 18	
" 2 bush. corn, do.	2 00	
" 95 lbs. beef, do.	4 75	
" wood, do.	5 00	
Hial Dow, house rent for E. Powers,	15 00	
Timothy G. Powers, 2 lbs. flour for E. Powers,	14 25	
" use of cow, do.	13 00	
Moses Barton, pasturing cow, do.	2 00	
" use of stove, do.	1 00	
Hiram C. Brown, 3¾ yards pant. cloth for Ezra Coburn,	1 88	
Hiram C. Brown, 3½ yds. frocking for E. Coburn,	1 75	
" trimmings for clothes, do.	42	
" 3¾ yards sheeting, do.	37	
" 1 pair boots, do.	3 00	
Mrs. Emery, for making clothes for E. Coburn,	1 00	
" 1 pair mittens, do.	90	
Hiram C. Brown, for support of Ezra Coburn,	19 50	
		116 77
D. D. Marsh, for 14 visits and medicine for Sally Hardy,	10 50	
D. D. Marsh, for 2 visits and medicine for Lucia Freeman,	1 00	
D. D. Marsh, for 1 visit and medicine for Pierce Emerson,	50	
		12 00
D. D. Marsh, for medical services rendered Hannah Chase,	1 50	
D. D. Marsh, for 6 visits and medicine for Eugene Kennisson,	4 25	
Williams Barton, for 2 visits and medicine for Eugene Kennisson, in 1852,	1 50	
Williams Barton, for one visit and medicine for Pierce Emerson,	50	
Williams Barton, for 4 visits and medicine for Ezekiel Powers,	2 00	

Williams Barton, for 3 visits and medicine for Lydia Harding,	1 50	
Williams Barton, for 9 visits and medicine for David Frye,	8 50	
Williams Barton, for 17 visits and medicine for Lynda Barton,	12 75	
Williams Barton, 65 visits and medicine, and extra services in dressing wounds for Lois Powers,	51 00	
		83 50
Martin C. Bartlett, for lumber and work on bridge near John G. Putnam,	12 90	
Freeman Crosby, for work on bridge near J. G. Putnam,	2 00	
Dennison Humphrey, work and plank for bridge near J. G. Putnam,	13 50	
George Humphrey, for work on bridge near J. G. Putnam,	10 00	
Elijah Jacobs, for 3 stringers for bridge near J. G. Putnam,	6 00	
Orren Perry, work on bridge near J. G. Putnam,	1 25	
Austin Stockwell, for work on bridge near J. G. Putnam,	2 00	
Hiram Kempton, for work on bridge near J. G. Putnam,	2 00	
Hiram C. Brown, for work on bridge near J. G. Putnam,	5 00	
Ethan Walker and Buzzel Benowy, for breaking mountain road,	9 36	
Elijah Jacobs, for breaking road from E. Powers' to foot of mountain,	2 50	
Ebenezer Mitchell, for repairing road,	1 34	
Silas Kempton, for plank for bridges,	50	
Peter Barton, for repairing bridge,	2 00	
Moses Metcalf, for breaking road in March, 1852, and March, 1853,	3 50	
Hiram C. Brown, for plank,	50	
		74 35
Sherburn B. Rowell, for plank for bridges,	75	
Kimball Loverin, for plank for bridges,	1 00	
Luke Paul, for plank for bridges,	1 50	
Albert G. Barton, for work on mountain road,	3 25	
Ruel Durkee, for plank for bridges,	1 85	
John C. Loverin, for plank for bridges,	17 47	
John Cooper, for tolling bell,	2 75	
Nathan Hall, for returning births and deaths,	65	
		29 22

ABATEMENT OF TAXES.

1850.	Elisha Bascomb,	3 12	
1851.	"	1 96	
1850.	C. C. Thornton,	3 20	
1851.	"	2 04	
1852.	"	1 87	
1853.	"	1 69	
1852.	Isaac Goward,	8 99	
1852.	Nelson H. Lewis,	1 77	
1852.	Aaron S. White,	2 61	
1852.	Wilbur F. Howard,	1 53	
1852.	James A. Stockwell,	1 53	
	Richard Wibert's heirs,	50	
1853.	Osbern Barker,	1 60	
John S. Blanchard, nonresident, highway tax paid in labor,		91	
Buzzel Benway, nonresident, highway tax paid in labor,		80	
			34 12

Ruel Durkee, for services as agent in opposing road,	10 00	
Hiram C. Brown, for services as agent in opposing road,	4 00	
Lemuel P. Cooper, for services as agent in opposing road,	7 34	
John Putnam, services as agent in opposing road,	2 00	
Samuel Morse, services as agent in opposing road,	25 00	
John Cooper, for his services as Superintending School Committee,	15 00	
Daniel R. Hall, for his services as Collector,	15 00	
Nathan Hall, for his services as Town Clerk,	10 50	
		88 84
Ruel Durkee, for services as Selectman,	25 00	
Hiram C. Brown, do.	16 00	
Lemuel P. Cooper, do.	15 00	
Ruel Durkee, note and interest given on settlement with town last year,	129 08	
Ruel Durkee, for stationery, blanks, &c.	1 50	
		186 58
Total amount paid out,		$2563 65

The Selectmen have credited the Town, for the year ending March, 1854, as follows: —

By a list of taxes assessed in April last,	1713 36
Literary Fund,	47 61
Interest on School notes,	63 68
Peter Barton, use of Frye place,	15 00
County of Sullivan, support of doctor's bill and funeral expenses of Sally Hardy,	102 77
County of Sullivan, support of Mr. Danforth,	5 03
Total Receipts,	$ 1947 45
Leaving a balance against the town,	616 20

Which is respectfully submitted, by

RUEL DURKEE,
HIRAM C. BROWN,
LEMUEL P. COOPER,
Selectmen of Croydon.

REPORT

OF THE SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

In making his annual Report, your Committee, in the first place, presents the following

TABULAR STATEMENT.

No. of District.	Terms—1 representing the summer and 2 the winter term.	Names of Teachers.	Length of School, in weeks.	Number between 4 and 14 years, not attending anywhere.	Average attendance.	Whole number of pupils.	Number between 14 and 21 years, unable to read and write.	Wages per month.	Amount contributed.
1	1	Miss Ursula W. Metcalf,	8	0	18			5 34	8 50
	2	Mr. Elihu F. Chase,	10	0	23	32	0	16 00	21 00
2	1	Miss Augusta M. Cooper,	10	0	50			8 00	
	2	Miss Augusta M. Cooper,	11	0	33			10 00	
	2	Miss Ellen Putnam,	11	0	34	93	0	16 67	
3	1	Mrs. Asenath G. Hall,	10	0	26			6 00	
	2	Mr. Sherman Cooper,							
4	2	Miss Martha L. Brigham,	13	0	15	20		8 00	
5	1	Miss Myra A. Powers,	6	0	10			4 00	6 00
	2	Mr. Ithamar P. Martindale,	11		11	14	0	11 00	14 00
6	1	Miss Sarah E. Hart,	6	2	12			5 00	6 00
	2	Miss Mary E. Ward,	10	0	10	17	0	5 00	8 00

Some of your Schools have made much more rapid progress than others, during the past year. The summer terms in Districts No. 1, No. 2 and No. 5, and the winter terms in Districts No. 1, No. 2, No. 3 and No. 5, were well conducted. The improvement of the pupils was good, and the discipline exact, while an excellent understanding existed between the teachers and their pupils. But the other schools, named in the foregoing table, although not failures, did not make as much progress as was reasonably expected. In District No. 4, the teacher did not maintain order. The teacher of the summer term in District No. 3, and the teachers of the summer and winter terms in District No. 6, failed to secure the good will of their pupils, and, consequently, did not give general satisfaction. How much blame must be attached to the several teachers, and how much to others, your Committee has not the means of determining.

It sometimes happens that a teacher indulges a prejudice against some of his pupils, and a partiality towards others; or he is arbitrary and tyrannical in his conduct. He endeavors to govern his school more by exciting the fears of his pupils than by winning their love, and appears to *care* but little whether he excites their love or hatred. In such cases a coldness rarely fails of being engendered between the teacher and his pupils—a coldness, which is certain to destroy the usefulness of the former.

But the fault does not always rest on the teacher. He may be learned and talented, and devotedly attached to his calling, and still keep but an indifferent school. It often happens that the usefulness of a teacher is greatly impaired, if not wholly destroyed, by some neighborhood quarrel. The inhabitants of a district are sometimes divided into two parties, each of which is ready to oppose whatever is done by the other. If a teacher is employed by a prudential committee belonging to one party, the other endeavors to break him down. He is condemned in advance; it is prophesied that the school will prove a failure, and the money be worse than thrown away. The children of disaffected parents generally imbibe the same sentiments; and if they attend school at all, generally go with the determination of finding fault, either with or without a cause. Under such circumstances it is next to impossible for the best teacher to give general satisfaction. He can neither satisfy himself nor his employers. If he is unable to withstand the extraneous influences which are brought to bear against him, he is censured for a result which others alone were instrumental in producing. Often in the course of his experience has your committee known disaffected members of a district to find fault with the teacher, and encourage their children in doing the same; and if the latter created any disturbance in school, they would censure the teacher severely for his efforts to enforce discipline.

It may be well to call your attention for a moment to the *present condition of your school-houses*. More depends upon the condition of the school-house than most people are aware. The experienced teacher will inform you that an intimate relation exists between a poor school-house and poor school; and that it is next to impossible to keep a model school in an old, ill-constructed, dilapidated building. Your Committee is happy in stating that last year the interior of the house in District No. 4 was remodeled. When that house is furnished with sufficient means of ventilation, and with an ample supply of blackboard, the wants of that district with respect to a school-house will be fully satisfied. There are other houses in town which are an honor to the districts in which they are situated. But on the other hand, the miserable condition of some of your school-houses is a standing reproach to the districts in which they stand. They do not truly represent the wealth and intelligence of the inhabitants. It is difficult to conceive the reason why some of our antediluvian-looking structures have been suffered to remain so long, unless it be owing to a misplaced economy Are those houses suffered to stand, through fear of the expense of erecting new ones? If so, such parents may be truly represented as "penny wise and pound foolish"; for they are willing to run the risk of ruining the health and dwarfing the minds of their children for the purpose of saving a few dollars.

But there is another view to be taken of the subject. Some parents appear desirous of having their children copy their example—follow in their footsteps. They seem fond of having them attend school in the same house where *they* attended, sit on the same seat where *they* sat, and engage in the same studies and diversions in which *they* engaged.—Parents indulging feelings of this nature, can probably say with the poet,—

> "Be it a weakness it deserves some praise,
> We love the play-place of our early days—
> The wall on which we tried our graving skill,
> The very name we carved existing still;
> The bench on which we sat while deep employed,
> Though mangled, hacked, and cut, not yet destroyed."

But when this feeling of veneration is indulged at the expense of the physical health, intellectual progress, aye, and the morals too of the rising generation, it ceases to be an amiable weakness. It then becomes a fault—a crime.

In conclusion, our Schools should engage our unremitting solicitude. What though there exist elsewhere a greater population and a more productive soil? Be it our endeavor to educate better men and women, and more enlightened citizens; to elevate a people thoroughly instructed in their social rights, and deeply imbued with a sense of their moral duties.

JOHN COOPER.

POWER-PRESS OFFICE.....CLAREMONT.